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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United States Attorney's Office - Northern District of New York Shows Its Support for Crime Victims & Honors Those Who Serve Them

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian will honor two individuals for outstanding service to crime victims. Hartunian will present these awards at a ceremony on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 which coincides with National Crime Victims Rights Week and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

“By recognizing the efforts of Nathaniel J. Dorfman, Assistant U.S. Attorney- Albany division and Lori A. Geer, Legal Assistant- Syracuse division of the U.S. Attorney's Office we honor all those who work tirelessly to afford victims a stronger voice in the federal judicial system” said Hartunian.

National Crime Victims Rights Week provides an opportunity for local communities to pay tribute to the millions of Americans who have been victimized by crime, in particular sexual assault survivors. The Northern District of New York has a dedicated Victim Witness Unit serving over 30,000 federal crime victims within the Northern District's 32 counties. This years' theme: ***Victims***

Rights: Fairness. Dignity. Respect evokes powerful memories of a time when victim compensation and support services were not available to those harmed by Crime. In the not so distant past, victims were being routinely excluded from courtrooms and blamed for their victimization, realities that unfortunately still exist for far too many victims. Victims and advocates demanded *fairness, dignity and respect* and the time has come to acknowledge the progress made toward realizing these ideals.

For more information regarding the awards ceremony or National Crime Victims Rights Week contact Rachel Seeber, Victim Witness Program Manager at 518-431-0247 or email Rachel at Rachel.E.Seeber@usdoj.gov.